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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	DHS-00	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSF-00
	ASDS-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	G-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9285

INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004304

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 2002 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 201772

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO INSTRUCTIONS AND
QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL.

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QUESTION A: THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA (GOA) HAS CONTINUED TO EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS. THE GOA HAS WORKED CLOSELY AND COOPERATIVELY WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS TO ENSURE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1373. IT HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH EFFORTS TO BLOCK TERRORIST FINANCIAL ASSETS, RESPONDING QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN ENSURING THAT ANY ASSETS OF TERRORIST GROUPS IDENTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND BY THE UN ARE BLOCKED. IN 2002 THE GOA REITERATED ITS OFFER MADE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS MANDATED COALITION PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND ELSEWHERE IF NEEDED. ON THE

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DIPLOMATIC FRONT ARGENTINA HAS WORKED WITHIN EXISTING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ELICIT STRONG OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS CONDEMNING TERRORISM AND PLEDGING THOSE ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM ON A GLOBAL BASIS. ARGENTINA WAS ACTIVE IN THE LEAD-UP TO AND THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM (CICTE), WHICH TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 28-29, 2002.

QUESTION B: THERE WERE NO TERRORIST ACTS COMMITTED IN ARGENTINA IN 2002. HOWEVER, THE TRIAL OF ALLEGED ACCOMPLICES IN THE 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER (AMIA) WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 2001, CONTINUED THROUGHOUT 2002. TWENTY SUSPECTS ARE BEING TRIED, 15 OF WHOM ARE FORMER POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING A FORMER BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE CAPTAIN. THE SUSPECTS ARE ACCUSED OF SUPPLYING THE STOLEN VEHICLE THAT CARRIED THE CAR
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BOMB. THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST WELL INTO 2003. FBI EXPLOSIVE TECHNICIANS INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION IN 1994 PROVIDED EXPERT TESTIMONY AT THE TRIAL IN OCTOBER 2002. ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ALSO CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE THE AMIA CASE DIRECTLY IN AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY THOSE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING. INVESTIGATION OF THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY ALSO CONTINUED. DESPITE THE TIME THAT HAS PASSED SINCE THESE INCIDENTS AND THE MISSTEPS IN THE INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS, THERE IS SOME EXPECTATIONS THAT THE PUBLIC TRIAL OF THE ACCESSORIES TO THE AMIA BOMBING WILL BRING NEW INFORMATION TO LIGHT ON ONE OR BOTH OF THE TERRORIST BOMBINGS.

QUESTION C: THE U.S. MADE NO TERRORISM RELATED EXTRADITION REQUESTS TO ARGENTINA IN 2002. NOR DID ARGENTINA RECEIVE SUCH REQUESTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OR MAKE ANY SUCH REQUESTS ON ITS OWN.

QUESTION D: DISCUSSION HAS CONTINUED FOR MANY YEARS IN ARGENTINA ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO ITS LEGAL CODE TO FACILITATE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TERRORIST CRIMES. SINCE 1994 THERE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE DEBATE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT OVER ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE TERRORISM LAW, THAT WOULD ALLOW THE USE OF PAID INFORMANTS, PLEA BARGAINING AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS. HOWEVER, PAST ABUSES OF POLICE POWER DURING THE MILITARY REGIMES CONTINUE TO COLOR THE OPINION OF MUCH OF THE POPULATION ON SUCH ISSUES. THE ABSENCE OF THESE JUDICIAL POWERS REFLECTS A HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY ON CIVIL LIBERTIES ISSUES, BUT ALSO IMPEDES INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED

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TERRORISTS. THE SIMPLE DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A TERRORIST AND TERRORIST ACTS HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY. SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN PUSHING FOR NEW COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION. RELEVANT GOA AUTHORITIES WERE PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE U.S. PATRIOT ACT PASSED INTO LAW IN THE U.S. IN 2001, FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS.

QUESTION E: HAVING BEEN THE VICTIM IN 1992 AND 1994 OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ATTACKS, THE GOA HAS STRONGLY AND CONSISTENTLY DEPLORED TERRORIST ACTS WHENEVER THEY OCCUR AND FREQUENTLY MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF ITS POSITION. DURING 2002, PRESIDENT DUHALDE AND FOREIGN MINISTER RUCKAUF HAVE MADE FREQUENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS AND SUBSEQUENT ATTACKS BY SUSPECTED AL-QAIDA OPERATIVES IN INDONESIA AND KENYA, AMONG OTHER LOCATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER 2002 WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE GLOBAL WAR AGAINST TERRORISM.

QUESTION F: ARGENTINA HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY THROUGHOUT 2002 IN ALL SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS). IN THE REGION, ARGENTINA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PROMOTING IMPROVED COORDINATION WITH MERCOSUR PARTNERS (BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA AND CHILE) IN STRENGTHENING SECURITY AND SEARCHING FOR TERRORIST SUPPORT

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	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004304

S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 2002 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

NETWORKS IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT ON TERRORISM ISSUES
SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, INCLUDING IMPROVED SHARING
OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. BROADER CONSULTATIONS AMONG
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ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND PARAGUAY, INCLUDING OFFICIALS OF OTHER
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, TOOK PLACE DURING 2002 TO ADDRESS
THE REGIONAL THREAT OF TERRORISM, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE
TRI-BORDER AREA. A REGIONAL MEETING ON THE TRI-BORDER AREA
TOOK PLACE IN MID-DECEMBER 2002 THAT INCLUDED SENIOR USG
OFFICIALS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM.

QUESTION G: ARGENTINA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PROVIDE SUPPORT
FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS.

QUESTION H: ARGENTINA MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT
OF A TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE.

QUESTION I: IN 2002 THE GOA TOOK CONCRETE AND POSITIVE STEPS
TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITHIN ITS OWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE
ON THE ISSUE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM. TO THIS END, THE
PRESIDENT CREATED IN JANUARY 2002 A NEW OFFICE WITHIN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY TO COORDINATE GOVERNMENT ACTION AND POLICY
ON INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM ISSUES. A SENIOR DIPLOMAT
WAS APPOINTED AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR TERRORISM AFFAIRS AND OTHER RELATED
CRIMES, AND HE HAS BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY TOWARDS ACHIEVING
ITS IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING COORDINATION AMONG
VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF THE GOA. THE OFFICE'S OTHER
FUNCTIONS INCLUDE SERVING AS THE GOA'S PRIMARY POINT OF
CONTACT FOR OAS CICTE ISSUES AND COORDINATING THE GOA'S
PARTICIPATION ON TERRORISM ISSUES IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS.

QUESTION J: SINCE THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, THE USG HAS
MAINTAINED CLOSE AND FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE GOA ON ISSUES
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OF COUNTER-TERRORISM, BOTH THROUGH BILATERAL CHANNELS AND
THROUGH THE OAS INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE AGAINST TERRORISM
(CICTE). THE USG AND GOA HAVE MAINTAINED ESPECIALLY FREQUENT
CONTACT ON ISSUES OF BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF TERRORISTS AND
TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SENSITIVE TRI-BORDER AREA.
THE GOA, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND THE CENTRAL BANK, AS WELL AS THE RELEVANT LOCAL
BANKING ASSOCIATIONS, HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN
RESPONDING TO REQUESTS RELATED TO BLOCKING TERRORIST
FINANCIAL ASSETS. THOUGH NO LEADS HAVE BEEN FOUND ON THE
ASSETS ISSUE, THE GOA CONTINUALLY EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS
TO FREEZE ASSETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH USG AND UN REQUESTS AND
REQUIREMENTS. THE USG CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOA
IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA. THE USG HAS ALSO MADE SEVERAL
REQUESTS TO GOA AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE ON
POST-SEPTEMBER 11 LEADS REGARDING SUSPECTED TRAVEL BY
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS TO ARGENTINA. THE GOA HAS BEEN
EXTREMELY HELPFUL ON ALL SUCH REQUESTS.

QUESTIONS K/L: BEYOND THE POST-SEPTEMBER 11 ISSUES MENTIONED
IN QUESTION J ABOVE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER CASES OF USG
REQUESTS TO THE GOA IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS FOR ASSISTANCE
IN THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF AN ACT OF
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS OR INTERESTS.
WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION SOUGHT FOR
PROSECUTION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CASES, THE GOA HAS
BEEN CONSISTENTLY VERY RESPONSIVE TO ALL TERRORISM RELATED
LEADS ON WHICH THE USG HAS MADE REQUESTS TO THE GOA. GOA
FOLLOW-THROUGH ON PURSUING ALL INVESTIGATIVE LEADS ON
TERRORISM MATTERS IS OUTSTANDING AND THIS COOPERATION
PREDATES SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 AND HAS ONLY IMPROVED FURTHER

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SINCE THE ATTACKS.
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